



REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

GRANT PERIOD: ROUND 4

KANSAS SERVES NATIVE AMERICAN FAMILIES—KSNAF

LEAD AGENCY: University of Kansas Center for Research, Inc.

LOCATION: Kansas

GEOGRAPHIC AREA: Kansas

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES REGION: 7

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT SERVED: KS-ALL

BRIEF PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: Kansas Serves Native American Families (KSNAF) improves the well-being, safety, and permanency of Native American children affected by parent and community substance abuse through the Strengthening Families Program (SFP), an evidence-based family skills training. KSNAF recruits, trains, and supports individuals who are Native American to offer SFP within tribal communities and other sites in Kansas. The purpose of KSNAF is to offer a culturally integrated SFP that positively impacts family bonding, communication, and parental supervision. The University of Kansas School of Social Welfare along with KVC Kansas partner with the tribes in Kansas, the Kansas City Indian Center, Haskell Indian Nations University, and other family serving agencies to provide the program.

TARGET POPULATION: The primary target population for this project is Native American children, ages 0 to 18, who are:

- In or at risk of out-of-home placement
- Affected by family/community substance use

KSNAF prioritizes families for RPG services in the following order:

1. Families with children who are in or at risk of out of-home placement for any reason associated with parental substance use and who have a case plan goal of reunification or guardianship.
2. Families receiving aftercare, family preservation, or family or community services for any reason associated with parental substance use.
3. Families with children in out-of-home placement for any reason other than parental substance use who have a case plan goal of reunification or guardianship.

PROJECTED NUMBERS SERVED: The project proposes to serve 80 families over the life of the project. Each year, KSNAF staff and partners deliver five SFP groups, serving five to eight families each, at different sites across Kansas, including Native American reservations. In addition, groups are provided in a virtual format, serving families across the region.

MAJOR PROGRAM GOALS

- GOAL 1:** Promote the well-being of Native American families with children in or at risk of out-of-home placement.
- GOAL 2:** Strengthen cultural sensitivity, trauma-informed capacity, and collaboration across agencies who provide services to Native American families in Kansas.
- GOAL 3:** Develop and share information about implementing and evaluating a parent/family skill-building program with Native American families.

KEY PROGRAM SERVICES

The major program services that KSNAP delivers are:

- Strengthening Families Program offered through a culturally integrated approach.
- Recruitment, training, and support for individuals who are Native American to offer SFP within tribal communities and other sites in Kansas as well as virtually.
- Cross-systems collaboration and infrastructure development to build culturally sensitive and trauma-informed capacity across agencies who provide services to Native American families affected by substance abuse and involved or at risk of involvement with child welfare systems in Kansas.
- Regular partnership meetings to discuss program, policy, and systems issues.

PARTNER AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

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| • Ahearn Greene Associates | • Kansas City Indian Center |
| • Haskell Indian Nations University | • Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas |
| • Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska | • KVC Kansas |
| • Kansas Department for Children & Families | • Missouri Department of Social Services |
| • Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services | • Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation |
| • Kansas University School of Social Welfare | • Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas |

EVALUATION DESIGN

The local and cross-site evaluation includes:

- Outcome and impact study to examine how outcomes among program participants change over time and to assess program impacts on outcomes.
- Process study to assess program systems and processes.
- Collaboration study to examine collaboration among program partners.
- Cost study to estimate and evaluate costs of program implementation.

KSNAP relies on child welfare administrative data from DCF and MDSS and oral history data from Tribal social services to assess impacts on safety and permanency outcomes.

SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES

KSNAP is building strong local community partnerships to support program implementation and sustainability. Tribal community members have been trained to be SFP Site Coordinators and Group Leaders, which is building the capacity to offer SFP after RPG funding ends. Programs and businesses within the tribes and communities where SFP is implemented are recruited to provide program supports such as meals and incentives. Virtual SFP will be explored as another option for continuing the program. Program leadership, including the Steering Committee, are intentional in considering sustainability in ongoing planning and decision-making with KSNAP.

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